

Wasatch Youth Center School Celebrates American Indian Heritage Month

Written by Lonnie Burton, Juvenile Justice Services

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Salt Lake- On November 21, the youth at Wasatch Youth Center held a gallery stroll to show off their hard work in capturing the history of seventeen American Indian Tribes. They took tribes from one of the following culture areas: Sub Arctic, Northwest Coast, Plateau, California, Great Basin, Southwest, Plains, Southeast and the Northeast Woodlands.

The young men paired up to create posters that provided information on their chosen tribe. Hours were spent on researching and drawing these amazing posters and the boys took pride in explaining their tribe to the audience. Not only did the boys learn about the tribes, but they were given a two-foot section of construction tubing and assigned to design and create a totem face. From an assortment of cardboard, foam, masking tape, and hot glue, their sculptures took shape; after three layers of paper mache, and layers of paint, their masterpieces emerged. This project was designed to accomplish three main goals, to inspire creativity, teach cooperation and show an appreciation of a timeless Native American art form.

It was an impressive sight to see all the posters and totem poles on display as you entered the school hall. "It was like being in a real museum exhibit," stated one of the attendees. The teachers over at Wasatch did an amazing job as well bringing this to life. Kudos to the teaching staff and youth at Wasatch.

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